

POULTRY ♥ WEEKLY

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LIBERTY.

THE season is now over for saving the eggs for hatching, and as soon as possible now let the hens be separated from their mates. All the hens could be kept in one flock and allowed out as much as possible to get good range and pick up a great part of their living outside. This will help the males to get a little extra flesh and be in better condition to go through their moult. The hens too will moult easier and quicker for the separation. The more liberty you can let them indulge the more eggs you will get, and they will enter winter quarters in fine condition, well over their moult and ready to go to laying when prices are good.

Any of the stock that is not intended for keeping over might as well be marketed now before prices decline too much. Choose a cool spell of weather in which to market, and in warm weather draw the birds, having first kept them for a few days off the grass to prevent the flesh of the abdomen from turning color too quickly. Especially should this be done if the birds are not to be drawn before marketing them, as they look so unsightly, as if the flesh were putrid.

Nothing is saved by keeping the hens now, for the sake of the few eggs they will lay before and during moulting; if intended for market the extra price obtained now will about equalize the loss of the eggs, as the feed and care are

saved also, and must count in as part saved. All young chicks as soon as found unfit for show or sale through any bad defect in plumage or form may as well share the same fate and go to the block, making room for the rest of the flock to do better, and get the benefit of extra room.

If you have any surplus pens, or rather runs, that will not be needed for a couple of weeks or so, be sure to take advantage of the time to get the runs spaded up and seeded down with Hungarian or millet to make a green pasture for the time when you wish to separate young stock, or enclose any specimens to prepare for exhibition. Besides the cheery appearance the green makes a most desirable contrast by which to show the beauty of the flock to the best advantage. If you see a pen of fine Light Brahmans on a nice green sward, and another equally good in a pen with the ground quite destitute of verdure, the impression on your mind would be that the last named were a far inferior lot of birds. Next to white on the green I think the beautiful colors of the Brown Leghorn males show most gloriously; they are so dainty too, almost seeming the earth they tread so proudly, the pretty, demure, light-footed pullets; vaunting as gracefully as a columbine upon every available spray, and enjoying the swing of the twig that seems almost too frail to support them. We must not begin in this strain however, or we could find no chance to finish, for all are beautiful, from the majestic Brahma to the tiny Bantam, pets above all, they seem to be, and vain! Yes! but that is only an added charm.

Do not keep ducks in the same house with chickens, nor in the cabbage and lettuce garden.